

AFSC 3639
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

SUBJECT: Oxcart Pilot Evaluation, Group B

On 19 Jun 62, the undersigned met with Brig. General Strickland, Ass't. for Bioastronautics, Air Force Systems Command, to discuss utilization of the School of Aerospace Medicine, Brooks AFB, for the medical, psychological, and psychiatric evaluation of Group B Oxcart pilots. In summary, the following transpired:

1. General Strickland is willing for these pilots to undergo the evaluations under the auspices of an AFSC-sponsored program as "General Flickinger's special projects' pilots," provided other than AFSC funding citations can be obtained.
2. Discussions should be held with Lt. Col. Rufus Hessberg, Chief, Biomedical Sciences Division, AFSC. Col. Hessberg is the pivotal figure, more or less, around whom the Air Force is conducting its evaluations at SAM.
3. Determinations of the extent of the evaluations on those candidates having already undergone the SAM or Lovelace examination should be left to the discretion of the SAM examiners.
4. It was agreed that the records should be forwarded from SAM to Col. Hessberg's office and subsequently claimed by General Flickinger.
5. General Strickland was asked for his ideas regarding obtaining volunteers for the astronaut-type physical examinations, in view of General Neise' remarks attesting to the fact that these people can no longer receive assurances that non-hazardous disqualifying factors discovered on these examinations would not be made a matter of Air Force record. General Strickland had two suggestions:
 - a. Face up to the fact that all these people are on active duty in the Air Force and thereby have no immunity from grounding action should disqualifying factors be found, or
 - b. Make special arrangements with the Surgeon General whereby it would be explained that these examinations are not for the purpose of ascertaining qualification for regular Air Force flying duties, and whereby if disqualifying factors were found, they should not be used as justification for grounding, provided these factors constituted no flying hazard to the pilots or to others, or to the successful completion of the mission.

USAF review(s) completed.

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General Strickland further offered his services or those of his office should the need arise in the future in processing these or other nominees through the School of Aerospace Medicine.

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[Redacted]
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DPS

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